



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323



In Reply Refer to:
COC 76563 3840(S01000)

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE: October 5, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office is accepting public comments on a proposal from GCC Energy, LLC to explore for future federal coal resources. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as having an interest in the proposed activities. BLM has prepared a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the proposed action as described below.

- What:** Exploration license application for locating future coal resources adjacent to King II Mine.
- Where:** T. 35 N., R. 11 W., and T. 35 N., R. 12 W., north of the King II Mine and located predominately on private surface, south of Hesperus in La Plata County, Colorado.
- How:** A small drill rig (similar to a water well rig) would be used to drill 23 exploration holes to depths of about 600 feet. Existing access routes would be utilized and no new roads are proposed. Coal from each hole would be sampled and sent to a lab to evaluate the quality of the coal. Geophysical logs would be run to further document the geology of the area.

Thirteen of the proposed sites are located adjacent to existing roads or two-track roads. The remaining ten sites would be accessed by eight overland travel routes. All proposed drill sites would be located on relatively flat, open land. Total disturbance related to overland travel and drilling sites would be approximately 5.3 acres (5.1 acres on private surface and .2 acres would be on BLM surface). All disturbed areas would be re-seeded and drill holes would be plugged per state standards to protect groundwater.

- Why:** The BLM's purpose of and need for action is to respond to GCC Energy's application for an exploration license for coal, as per the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

When: The proposed activities would commence following permit approval with specific timing limitations for migratory birds and raptors. It is expected that activities would be completed within a four to six week period, weather permitting.

The environmental analysis (EA) is available at BLM – Tres Rios Field Offices in Dolores (29211 Hwy 184) and Durango (15 Burnett Ct) and is posted on the BLM website (see project # S010-2014-0025):

[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM Information/nepa/TRFO NEPA.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM%20Information/nepa/TRFO%20NEPA.html)

Comments regarding the project should be submitted via email or letter by October 5, 2015 to:

BLM Tres Rios Field Office
Attn: GCC Coal Exploration License
15 Burnet Court
Durango, CO 81301
or email: blm_co_coalcommenttresrios@blm.gov

This letter also requests your comments, if any, on the potential effects to historic properties. This request is being made pursuant to the consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have questions, please contact Helen Mary Johnson at 970.385.1359.

Sincerely,



Connie Clementson
Field Manager

Note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment –including your personally identifiable information –may be made publicly available at any time. We can only honor your request in your comment to withhold your personal identifiable information from public review to the degree that it is protected under the Freedom of Information Act.